Mr. B. SITHARAMIAH brought to notice that in the Chitaldrug District, there was need for a number of bridges. For want of bridges on the Hiriyur-Hosdurga road, all the traffic was being diverted to very circuitous routes and the public were being inconvenienced on this account.

Mr. Suranagi SIDDABASAPPA represented that the construction of a bridge over the Kumudvathi river in Shikarpur Taluk which was promised by the Dewan-President some time back, be taken up and completed by the end of the year.

No. 147.—Nominating Ganigars to the Municipal Councils, District Boards, etc.

Mr. A. DASAPPA (Minorities).

Mr. A. DASAPPA represented that as the Jyoti Nagar Vaisya community was a minor community and the members thereof could not secure seats by contesting in elections to the municipalities and the district boards, they might be nominated to these bodies.

Mr. D. VENKATARAMANAPPA added that there were some graduates in the community whose claims should be considered in selecting Revenue Probationers.

No. 101.—Amendment of rules of recruitment.

Mr. KHAJI SYED YUSUF SAHIB (Minorities).

Mr. KHAJI SYED YUSUF SAHIB represented that in the selection of Probationary Sub-Inspectors of Police in July 1938, only two out of twenty-four were Mahomedans as could be seen from the answer to Question No. 56 on the agenda. As the Muslim community was not getting adequate representation, he pleaded that a definite proportion of appointments should be reserved for members of that community. He urged that the rules of recruitment be suitably amended, reserving a certain number of vacancies for Muslims on the lines of rules in force in the Madras Presidency, *viz.*, that every sixth appointment should be given to a Mahomedan.

No. 111.—Establishment of hand spinning centres at Molkalmuru and Harihar.

Messrs. Venkatpathi THIMMIAH and Patel MALLAPPA (Chitaldrug Taluk); T. SHADAKSHARAPPA and D. SIVASANKARIAH (Challakere Taluk); K. KENCHAPPA and B. SITHARAMIAH (Hiriyur Taluk); GOWDA ESWARAPPA of Doggamal and GOWDA ESWARAPPA (Holalkere Taluk); Patel CHENNAPPA and GOWDA SIVAPPA (Davangere Taluk); Patti BASAPPA and KAMAREDDI MALLAPPA (Molkalmuru Taluk); J. S. MAHALINGAPPA and MALKAPPA (Jagalur Taluk); Alampalli NANJUNDA SETTY and P. S. DORASWAMI NAIDU (Hosadurga Taluk); BASAPPA *alias* ROGAPPA (Harihar Sub-Taluk); M. GURUSIDDAPPA (Davangere Municipality); S. RANGA RAO (Chitaldrug Municipality); MAHOMED USMAN SAHIB (Harihar Municipality); C. H. ABDUL RAZAK, SYED MOHIDEEN HUSSAIN and A. BHEEMAPPA NAIK (Minorities).

Mr. K. KENCHAPPA represented that in the whole of the Chitaldrug District, Harihar and Molkalmuru were towns which were famous for manufacturing silk goods, while Challakere was famous for cheap woollen blankets. But these industries were decaying for want of local encouragement coupled with competition from outside. Unless Government helped and encouraged these industries, they would soon die out and the poor workers dependent on them would be deprived of their livelihood. For these reasons, he prayed that Government might start silk-spinning centres at Harihar and Molkalmuru and a *kambli* weaving centre at Challakere.

The PRESIDENT said that the question would be examined.

RESOLUTIONS—*contd.*

Resolution No. 3.

Economic and Industrial Survey of the State.

Messrs. B. CHOODE GOWDA and M. B. GURULINGIAH (Closepet Taluk); T. THIMMARAYAPPA and Patel HONNASIDDAIYA (Magadi Taluk); T. MADIAH GOWDA and M. SIDDE GOWDA (Channapatna Taluk); C. N. NARASINGA RAO (Bangalore City Municipality); K. NARAYANA SETTY (Magadi Municipality); S. KARIAPPA and Gurukar VENKATARAMANE GOWDA (Kankanhalli Taluk); A. M. VENKATASAMIAH (Closepet Municipality); N. APPANNA REDDY (Bangalore Taluk); A HANUMANTHARAYAPPA (Devanhalli Taluk);

H. S. SURYANARAYANA RAO, K. T. BHASHYAM AIYANGAR, B. M. MUNISWAMAPPA and V. VENKATESAIYA (Special Interests); Patel HANUME GOWDA (Dodballapur Taluk); B. MALLAPPA and A. M. CHANNAMARE GOWDA (Nelamangala Taluk); K. P. PARASIVIAH (Kankanhalli Municipality); S. SHARABHANNA (Anekal Taluk); Shampur PAPANNA and S. MUNIVENKATAPPA (Minorities).

Mr. T. MADIAH GOWDA moved the following resolution :—

"This Assembly recommends to the Government of His Highness the Maharaja that an economic and industrial survey of the State be at once undertaken."

In doing so, he said that members of the House were repeatedly bringing to the notice of the Government the urgent necessity for an economic and industrial survey of the State, but so far without effect. No doubt, Government were providing lakhs of rupees for the development of several industries in the State and for the improvement of the economic condition of the people. But to what extent such a large investment of Government money had actually benefited the people and how far the poverty of the people had been reduced had not been examined and it was desirable to do so without any further delay. Otherwise it would be something like a doctor administering a medicine to a patient without watching its effect. To ensure that public funds were being spent well, it was necessary to find out what the indebtedness of the raiyat was and whether it was on the increase or decrease year after year. Statistics should be collected about the earning capacity of the average raiyat, whether it was adequate to meet all his needs and whether he was happy. As it was being represented in the House year after year that the raiyats were labouring under several hardships, an economic survey would provide adequate material for devising suitable remedies. If there were no statistics to indicate the actual position at present, it might be difficult to bring the situation under control even a few years later.

The Government were selecting some villages for being improved and made model villages. Even in respect of such villages, an economic survey had not been undertaken—not even in the health unit in Closepet area. What was the position of the raiyat 10 years back; what was it at the present time; what were the causes that contributed to his present position, and how should his position be improved in the years to come? Information on all these points should be collected to enable the Government to proceed in the right direction. Without such statistics, he was doubtful how far the scheme would be a success. It might be claimed that every available pie was being utilised for improving the lot of the raiyat. But he would lay stress on the point that at the same time, it was desirable to find out whether the expenditure that was now being incurred was worth incurring or not. This question of an economic survey had been coming up before the House year after year, and yet, Government had not conducted any such survey. That was perhaps due to the fact that they were not in a position to find funds for the purpose. The speaker had no doubt that any amount spent on such a survey would be spent usefully as the statistical information collected would be of immense help to the Government. The University could also co-operate with the Government in making such a survey, since both teachers and students could render much assistance in this direction. The villages would be like laboratories for them to conduct experiments in. At present, rural people were emigrating to urban areas and were not willing to go back to the villages. Thus the contact between the villages and towns was disappearing. It was desirable that the contact should be renewed and improved. After all, the State comprised a network of villages. The college students and their professors might be entrusted with the responsibility of conducting an economic survey of all the villages. By enlisting their co-operation, the expenditure also could be kept down. He added that Government would do well to arrange for an industrial as well as an economic survey of the State as early as possible. In this view, the speaker commended the resolution for the acceptance of the House.

Mr. G. RAJAGOPALACHAR seconded the resolution. He also said that Resolution No. 8 on the agenda tabled by him dealt with the same subject of conducting an economic survey and that he had mentioned therein particulars in respect of which detailed information had to be collected, and for this reason he suggested that that resolution also might be taken up for discussion along with the one before the House.

Continuing, he said that during every budget session of the House, the members were making requests for additional grants for various items. To most of such representations the one reply of the Government was that they had not the required funds. And the subjects of the State, being unable to bear any further taxation, could not themselves finance those items, however urgent or important. Government, therefore, had to consider in what way they could attend to the wants and grievances of the people. Sir M. Visvesvaraya had very ably analysed this question, in his publication "Rural Reconstruction in India." He had explained therein that India was a predominantly agricultural country, that the earning capacity of the Indian was very low and that with the balance that remained after paying the taxes due to the Government, the tax-payer could not maintain himself and his family for even four or five months in the year. That was why he considered that a programme of rural reconstruction was urgently necessary. Mere road-making, digging of wells or opening of schools would not exhaust the list of rural improvement works. For at least 6 months in the year the raiyat had no work to do and it was necessary to provide him with some cottage industry or other by-occupation by which he could engage himself and make a better living. In that way, his tax-paying capacity also would be improved and the question of unemployment would to some extent be solved. But as matters stood, it was not possible for him to bear any fresh taxation. If not for anything else, at least for the purpose of verifying the taxable capacity of the people engaged in various walks of life and for effecting a more even distribution of the tax-burden, an economic survey would be helpful. In Germany, Russia and other countries the governments took the initiative and laid down a five-year or a ten-year programme of economic reconstruction. Similarly here also, the Government ought not to hesitate to undertake an economic survey, find out in what directions people in the rural parts could be helped to earn more and thus improve their own as well as the State's economic position.

Mr. Rayara KEMPANNA, in further supporting the resolution, said that it was one which, if passed and given effect to, would help the villagers to a considerable extent. Formerly the people in the villages had no idea of any of the industries and had to rest content with living on their own agricultural produce. They sold a portion of the crop for purposes of paying the kandayam and kept the rest for their maintenance. Very often, the crop would be poor and consequently the balance remaining after paying the taxes would not be sufficient for maintenance. The standard of life, even of the villager, was now improving and for this reason his income had necessarily to be increased. The question for consideration was how best this should be done. It was possible now-a-days to grow certain commercial crops and get a larger yield therefrom. There were certain handicrafts which could be taken up in rural areas with substantial benefit to the raiyats. When the Revenue Commissioner visited the speaker's village some time before, he was pleased to enquire what cottage industry the people would be willing to take up. Some said that they would take up rope-making and others said that they would take up pottery, as a by-occupation. But necessary facilities for them to take up such by-occupations were lacking. If only facilities were provided, the villagers were sure to take advantage and improve their own lot.

Mr. K. SHAMA IYER pointed out that the State was endowed with abundant natural resources for the develop-

ment of industries. If the resources were properly utilised, he had no doubt that the State would be one of the most prosperous States in India. In many respects, the administration of the State was a model for others, but no single country could prosper for ever at the expense of others, and no country had been able to find out ways and means to escape from the general trend of world-wide depression which had begun after 1929.

Before the Great War all the countries in the world, both East and West, were able to advance their economic prosperity year after year under the grand banner of "freedom of commerce."

Several years after the Great War, all the countries of the world seemed to be recovering from its ruinous effects through a policy of so-called "reconstruction." But it was becoming clear now that this hope of recovery to the level of pre-war prosperity was all in vain. After the world-wide economic crisis of 1929, a general depression spread into every corner of the world. The ideal of co-operation and mutual confidence among the nations began to slacken. The so-called "have" countries stopped their investment of capital with the "have not" countries. So the latter, from sheer necessity, adopted the policy of restriction and control toward their national economy, either to defend themselves against the fall of their national currencies or to maintain an equilibrium of international payments. The "have's" as a counter-measure undertook a strong policy against goods coming from the "have not's", either by the quota system or by the tremendous increase of tariffs. In the result, both classes of countries suffered, and as a last resort, they tried the establishment of preferential relations between the countries under their political control and situated in their neighbourhood.

By this policy the mutual co-operation and relationship lessened. Thereupon, each nation earnestly set about improving its own economic condition. The exportation of Indian goods to countries other than British decreased, with the result that the economic depression extended even to other local produces like ground-nut, coffee, and silk. And the country was again entangled in difficulties by the adoption of the "Free Trade" policy and also by not giving any relief to local cotton, silk, and sugar. So, as the Dewan had said, the people must try to get the wants of the urban population supplied by those in the rural parts, instead of being attracted by foreign goods.

This problem was by no means confined to the Mysore State. The question of conducting a general economic survey of India engaged the attention of the Government of India also and they appointed a committee under the Chairmanship of Sir M. Visvesvaraya to consider it. The committee submitted their report in 1924, recommending a Central Statistical organisation for the whole of India; but no action was taken on the report. In 1933 the question again engaged the attention of the Government of India. It was thought that a general economic census would be a huge task and that, under the existing circumstances, it might probably be impracticable. Therefore, as a preliminary to such a general economic census, the Government of India thought it desirable to collect important statistics regarding census of production—both industrial and agricultural—and to carry on intensive rural and urban surveys with the co-operation of non-official organisations and universities.

The Government of India invited Dr. Bowley of the London University and Mr. D. H. Robertson of the University of Cambridge to study the present statistical materials regarding the economic conditions of India and submit a report on the scheme for conducting an economic Census of India. The experts recommended an economic survey spread over a period of 3 years and costing roughly about 30 lakhs of rupees. They proposed a quinquennial census of production, intensive surveys in selected villages and surveys of larger towns and interme diate urban population census.

To profit by the recommendations of such experts and to give effect to the

sound advice of the Dewan, or as a preliminary to acting on such advice, the speaker thought that it was necessary to take up an economic survey of the State spread over a definite number of years. In this view, he had very great pleasure in supporting the resolution.

The SECRETARY to GOVERNMENT, DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT (Mr. M. Venkatanaranappa), replying to the debate on the resolution, explained that the question of conducting an economic and industrial survey of the State had come up for discussion both before the Assembly as well as the Legislative Council on former occasions and as such the views of the Government on the subject were generally known. It would doubtless be good if an intensive survey could be undertaken in the Mysore State. But it would involve a lot of time, a large staff and plenty of expenditure. Hence he said that it was not feasible for the Government to undertake it for the present. The Government of India themselves had once taken up this matter for consideration but deferred action on it on the ground that it would cost some crores of rupees. In Mysore, a survey like the one proposed would involve an expenditure of at least a few lakhs of rupees. The time that would be taken by such a task had also to be reckoned with. Besides, far-reaching changes were taking place in the country from year to year, so that by the time the contemplated survey and enquiry were taken up and completed, the chances were that conditions might have undergone very radical changes, and one could not be sure whether the situation would not require a re-examination in the light of the state of affairs then existing.

Having said this, **Mr. M. VENKATANARANAPPA** pointed out that though a general survey had not been undertaken, Government had taken steps to collect the necessary statistics by conducting marketing surveys in regard to certain important agricultural and commercial products of Mysore, such as copra, paddy, hides, coffee, tobacco, oil seeds, eggs, cotton, etc., and also conducted experiments in matters like cold storage of fruits like apples, mangoes, etc. The work was conducted by departmental officers in collaboration with the Marketing Officers of the Government of India, with a view to finding out what marketing facilities were available for those commodities and how the same could be developed. The whole question was now under consideration and a report would be published soon. The Industries Board of the Government of India had just taken up a survey in respect of hand-loom weaving, tanning and pottery. In Mysore also, the department was trying to do the same. The Indian Tariff Board had recently visited the State and conducted an enquiry into the Sericultural industry, and their report was awaited. On another occasion, a similar enquiry was held in regard to the extension of tariff protection so far as the sugar industry was concerned. It was the policy of the Government to undertake such surveys in respect of every important industry as and when the occasion for it arose and obtain necessary statistics and reports from experts. By adopting such a system, not only would the expenditure be kept down but the people also would be benefited. He concluded by stating that it was not possible just now for Government to order an intensive survey in respect of all commodities at the same time.

Mr. S. RAMAPPA, in supporting the resolution, complained that Government had not collected any statistics to indicate the present economic condition of the raiyats. Industrial activity in the State was no doubt on the increase but nobody had any clear idea as to the particular locality best suited for any particular industry. In order to collect the necessary statistics of an industrial and economic value to the State, he suggested that if a regular survey could not immediately be taken up, at least a questionnaire could be framed and issued and necessary information collected. He also observed that at present all industrial activity centred round the cities of Bangalore and Mysore and suggested that it would be a very good thing if the Government

could see that it permeated into the interior parts of the State also.

The SECOND MEMBER (Rajamantrapravina N. Madhava Rau), speaking for Government, said that Government's view had been explained by the Secretary to Government in the Development Department and that he himself had not very much to add to what the Secretary had stated.

Referring to the mover's remark that in the absence of an economic survey, Government could not have any idea about what remedial steps should be undertaken to meet the difficulties of the raiyat and to provide him with requisite help to improve his lot, he observed that it would not be correct to say that Government were not in possession of all relevant information. In fact the information already before the Government was ample for all practical purposes. The statistics collected under the raiyatwari system prevailing in Mysore were available. There were the *fasal goshvar* (crop report), the settlement report, etc., from which an idea of the economic position of the agriculturist could be gathered. Whenever Government wanted to take any special steps relating to a particular industry, necessary detailed investigation could be made in respect of it. For instance, in pursuance of the advice of the recent Imperial Industries Conference, the Government of Mysore had decided to undertake an investigation into the present condition and future prospects of specified industries, *viz.*, hand-loom textile industry, tanning industry, oil crushing and pottery.

Mr. N. MADHAVA RAU next referred to the rail-borne trade statistics of the State and said that these were more thorough than anywhere else. It was also under contemplation to improve the system of collecting road-borne trade statistics. So, merely because a general survey had not been conducted, it could not be said that no relevant information was available.

A mere survey conducted once throughout the State would not serve, for all time to come, the purpose for which it was intended. The process would have to be kept up from time to time and there must be a separate staff for doing it. That might cost about Rs. 1 lakh or Rs. 1½ lakhs. Again, even granting that a general survey was taken up, it must be remembered that any statistics collected would only be rough. They would perhaps be a little more reliable than what was available at present but could not be taken to be absolutely accurate. There were several methods of collecting them—all empirical. But the importance of statistics was apt to be exaggerated. For instance, so long as it was admitted on all hands that the malady of indebtedness existed in the country, it was immaterial whether the extent of the indebtedness was 25 crores or 35 crores. The measures to be taken to combat it would be the same in either case. It was not necessary therefore to spend large sums of money to assess the economic condition of the raiyat with a special degree of accuracy. Even the available rough figures afforded sufficient data for any remedial measures that might be usefully adopted.

He then adverted to the remark that no survey had been conducted in the Health Unit situated in the Closepet area and observed that this remark was not correct. According to a scheme suggested by Dr. Sweet, a complete and detailed sanitary survey of the number of houses, their ventilation, sanitary conveniences, etc., had been made. A similar survey had also been made in some other villages. But there were certain kinds of reconstruction work for which no elaborate statistics were needed. For example, in several villages, substantial improvement had been effected by Government and for doing that, they had not felt the need for elaborate statistics.

Mr. T. MADIAH GOWDA enquired whether any regular economic survey had been conducted in the Closepet area at all.

Mr. N. MADHAVA RAU replied that a test survey had been undertaken in some villages for the purpose of ascertaining the possibility of consolidation of holdings. Here again precise information was relatively of little use. The main point to note was that fragmentation

should be checked as far as possible, and for doing that, the steps to be taken would be the same whether the extent of each holding was half an acre or a quarter of an acre. Other economic inquiries had been made in the area in connection with proposals to establish a land mortgage society and a milkmen's co-operative society.

Summarising his views, he stated that the season and crop report and the review of rail-borne trade were two valuable annual publications which contained a good deal of basic statistical material. These had been supplemented by information gathered in the course of marketing, industrial and debt surveys for certain specific purpose by the Departments of Industries, Geology, Sericulture and Co-operation. But the collection without reference to immediate practical need of general economic data or information in respect of each and every article of commerce, as contemplated in the resolution, would cost several lakhs of rupees and entail lot of time, and for this reason, he regretted that the resolution could not be accepted.

Mr. K. T. BHASHYAM AIYANGAR said that the object of the resolution was that whatever statistics were in Government's possession should be made available to the people, so that suggestions made by them might be based on those statistics. Again, if it was found that the earning capacity and the purchasing power of the villager had gone down, it should be the duty of those concerned to improve them. With regard to the question of improving the industries of the State, for instance the khadi industry, it would be very useful to have statistics of the places where good cotton was sold cheap, so that steps could be taken to manufacture and sell khadi cheaper than foreign cloth. There was, for instance, the bangle-making industry in a small village near Koratagere. If Government could give some encouragement to those engaged in that industry, the bangles coming from Japan might be very easily replaced by the *swadeshi* article, and thousands of rupees could be saved to the country. Again, detailed information about the silica deposits required for the manufacture of bangles, would be worthwhile collecting. All these would naturally be included in a general survey if taken up.

Mr. N. MADHAVA RAU pointed out that this kind of information had already been collected in connection with the industrial survey referred to by him.

Mr. K. T. BHASHYAM AIYANGAR said that a mere industrial survey would concern itself with ascertaining where all particular materials were available. But what was suggested in the resolution was a combined economic and industrial survey. For collecting correct information in that connection, it would be necessary to frame a questionnaire, and obtain replies from various sources, such as the Deputy Commissioners, the Amildars, the village panchayats, etc. He agreed, as stated by the Second Member of Council, that no survey could serve for all time, and that any information once collected would have to be brought up-to-date periodically. At the same time, he had no doubt that the information once compiled would be helpful in understanding the relative positions of different places and areas and also in knowing what materials were available in which places.

Mr. N. MADHAVA RAU added, in addition to what he had already stated, that departmental reports like the season and crop reports would furnish useful information on certain points and that anybody interested in particular questions might peruse them more in detail.

Mr. K. T. BHASHYAM AIYANGAR replied that the information furnished therein was by no means exhaustive and that an industrial survey alone would deal with raw products, where they were available, and so on. It would also be possible to ascertain through an industrial survey what industries had thrived in olden days, why they happened to decay, and how they could be revived. If therefore an exhaustive survey was conducted and statistics published on the lines adopted in western countries, he said that not only would the members of the Constitutional Houses be enabled to give their opinion on various questions but the Government also would be in a position to appreciate the view-

point of such members. Besides, if a general survey was held and definite data was available, it would be clear that the cost of schemes like bangle-making, for instance, would not be very much. All that would be required was a special survey of the areas with silica deposits. Personally, he felt that within a period of about 10 years or so, many cottage and village industries could be established. This was the main object of the resolution under discussion. It was immaterial to him whether Government called it an economic survey or an industrial survey and whether the survey was made in parts or at a stretch.

Mr. N. MADHAVA RAU replied that Government had been conducting from time to time a number of surveys connected with particular industries and that when the results were tabulated, the information would be found to be sufficiently full.

Mr. K. T. BHASHYAM AIYANGAR again contended that that would not serve the purpose in view since information could not be had at a glance about the raw materials available in each area or about all the places in which a particular raw material was to be found. He would, therefore, suggest a comprehensive survey being conducted and a hand-book of commercial information in Mysore published with necessary statistics, so that on the basis thereof, the members might be in an authoritative position to speak on the various aspects of any industry in the State. If, however, all necessary statistics were already available in different places, he would suggest that Government might well consolidate and make them available to the members, in the form of a single publication.

Mr. N. MADHAVA RAU replied that Government would consider the suggestion of bringing out a hand-book of commercial information so far as it might be available. There were some statistical abstracts already compiled and these would be brought up-to-date. In the meantime, as and when any new surveys of particular industries were undertaken, the said statistics would be supplemented. In that way, he hoped the object underlying this resolution would be practically gained.

The resolution was thereupon withdrawn by leave of the House.

At this stage, the Assembly rose for lunch and met again at 3-30 p.m.

Resolution No. 4.

Political Prisoners and Elections.

Messrs. H. S. SURYANARAYANA RAO, K. T. BHASHYAM AIYANGAR, B. M. MUNISWAMAPPA, V. VENKATESAIYA (Special Interests); **T. THIMMARAYAPPA** and **Patel HONNASIDDAIYA** (Magadi Taluk); **T. MADIAH GOWDA** and **M. SIDDE GOWDA** (Channapatna Taluk); **B. CHOODE GOWDA** and **M. B. GURULINGIAH** (Closepet Taluk); **C. N. NARASINGA RAO** (Bangalore City Municipality); **K. NARAYANA SETTY** (Magadi Municipality); **S. KARIAPPA** and **Gurukar VENKATARAMANE GOWDA** (Kankanhalli Taluk); **A. M. VENKATASAMIAH** (Closepet Municipality); **N. APPANNA REDDY** (Bangalore Taluk); **A. HANUMANTHARAYAPPA** (Devanhalli Taluk); **Patel HANUME GOWDA** (Doddballapur Taluk); **B. MALLAPPA** and **A. M. CHANNAMARE GOWDA** (Nelamangala Taluk); **K. P. PARASIVIAH** (Kankanhalli Municipality); **S. SHARABHANNA** (Anekal Taluk); **Shampur PAPANNA** and **S. MUNIVENKATAPPA** (Minorities).—

Mr. H. S. SURYANARAYANA RAO moved the following resolution:—

"This Assembly recommends to the Government of His Highness the Maharaja that the Election Rules may be revised removing the restrictions on persons who have been sentenced by a criminal court to imprisonment for six months and more from standing as candidates for election as members of the Representative Assembly, the Legislative Council, the District Board and other bodies and exempting all political prisoners from the operation of the said rule."

He prefaced his remarks by stating that there was a slight error in the wording of the resolution as printed and that the original resolution as sent up by him in Kannada to the District meeting was intended to urge the removal of restrictions only in the case of persons convicted of political offences.

He then proceeded to the subject-matter of the resolution and pointed out that it was usual in all civilized countries to afford special treatment to political prisoners in the matter of

food, accommodation and other comforts in jails. Most political prisoners would not be guilty of any offence involving moral turpitude, and would have been sentenced to imprisonment on purely technical grounds, such as for holding political views which might have offended against the penal code, and if for such reasons, a political agitator happened to be sentenced to imprisonment for six months or more, he would be disqualified under the existing rules to stand for election for a long period of ten years from the date of release. No doubt Government could remove the disqualification earlier in special cases as they had in fact done in the case of Mr. K. T. Bhashyam Aiyangar, but he was afraid that such a liberal attitude might not be taken by the Government in respect of all political offenders nor would it be possible for all of them to approach the Government and get exemption at the time of elections. And he did not see why any political worker should be denied the right of contesting in elections.

He considered that it was improper to put a political offender in the same category as a hardened criminal. It might be that in the latter case the accused had committed a heinous offence, whereas in the former he was not guilty of anything more than carrying on political agitation, from patriotic motives and in peaceful and non-violent ways. Seeing that political workers sometimes courted imprisonment as a means of securing the political advancement of the country, he said that the disqualification imposed by the rule should not apply in their case.

With these remarks, he prayed for the acceptance of the resolution.

Mr. R. GOPALASWAMI IYER suggested an amendment to the effect that the restriction imposed by the Election Rules should be removed not merely in the case of political offenders but in the case of every ex-convict. According to the Madras rules, an ex-convict was not disqualified for government service. Such being the case, there was no justification for Mysore to prevent an ex-convict from standing for election to statutory bodies.

Mr. D. VENKATARAMANAPPA seconded the amendment and said that all ex-convicts should be treated alike. He was not prepared to believe that every convicted person was really guilty of the offence, nor that every person acquitted was free from blame. He was personally aware of cases where some honest persons had been convicted for lack of proper evidence to prove their innocence. For this reason, he was not in favour of making any distinction as between one ex-convict and another.

Mr. S. RANGARAMIAH pointed out that the amendment of Mr. R. Gopalaswami Iyer was out of order as no previous notice of it had been given to the House as per rules. The purport of the resolution was to amend sub-section (v) of Rule 8 of the rules in the Legislative Council Manual regarding qualifications of candidates for election. The sub-section stated that any person who had been sentenced by a criminal court to imprisonment for six months or more was disqualified to stand as a candidate for election. According to the wording of that rule, political workers who had been sentenced to imprisonment of six months or more could be brought under that category. It was quite possible, he said, that at the time of framing that rule, the case of political prisoners was not thought of by the Select Committee. He also pointed out to what extent this rule was abused in British India when the non-co-operation movement was in full swing, and how many respectable people were ill-treated and not allowed to stand for election. Later on, as a result of the High Court's opinion, it was ordered that the disqualifications applicable to criminal convicts would not apply to persons sentenced to imprisonment on purely political grounds. The result was that in 7 out of 11 Provinces in British India, many persons who had been sentenced to various kinds of punishment on political grounds could stand for election, succeed, and even become Ministers in their own Provinces. In Mysore also, there were political workers like Mr. K. T. Bhashyam Aiyangar who had been granted exemption and

enabled to serve both in the Assembly and in the University Senate. But that was an exceptional treatment given to only one member, and several other gentlemen who could not get similar exemption had to keep themselves out of the Constitutional Houses. It was therefore necessary to amend the rule so as to give equal opportunities to all political workers to serve their country.

He however opposed the amendment suggested by the two previous speakers, *viz.*, that the exemption be extended to all ex-convicts including those guilty of heinous offences. He pointed out that under the proviso to clause (vi) of the rule, the disqualification would cease to operate after ten years from the date of release or dismissal, or even earlier under the special orders of Government. As provision already existed enabling Government to remove the disqualification at their discretion in deserving cases, he said that there was no need for any amendment once for all doing away with all distinction as between political prisoners and hardened criminals. Several authorities were of the view that workers in a country's cause should not be classed with persons convicted for offences involving moral turpitude, even though their political views offended against the penal code. Moreover, it was desirable that all intelligent men should be encouraged to serve their country through its parliamentary institutions. In this view, he urged that the disqualification referred to in the resolution be removed in the case of persons convicted of political offences.

Mr. Y. V. MUNISWAMI IYER opposed the resolution on the ground that no distinction need be made among ex-convicts in the matter of elections. In his opinion, every person convicted by a competent court to undergo imprisonment for a period of six months or more was obviously guilty of a grave offence, whether it be a political offence or any other offence involving moral turpitude. There was not much to choose as between the two. A person convicted of a political offence would necessarily be one who had created, or tried to create, a gulf between the Ruler and the ruled and of creating unrest in the country. Loyalty to the king was enjoined in all the Scriptures. Disobedience of established law was tantamount to disobedience of the King's order and any one who did that had to be dubbed a traitor. The political workers in Mysore, some of whom had gone to jail and for whose benefit the election rules were proposed to be amended, had been the root-cause of the Viduraswatha shooting, as a result of which several lives had been lost. If persons belonging to such schools of political thought were allowed to stand as candidates for election to the constitutional bodies of the State, it would lead to many a catastrophe in the State. The speaker therefore thought it best to keep on the existing disqualification in the case of such persons standing as candidates for election to any public or constitutional bodies of the State.

Mr. TIPPU SULTAN ALI KHAN, who also opposed the resolution, pointed out that the term "political prisoners" did not find a place in any of the penal codes of the country. That term had only a historic meaning, as referring to persons taken as captives in war. In his opinion, therefore, it was wrong to style as political prisoners, persons who were sentenced to imprisonment for breaking the law of the land. To call an offender against the established authority of Government a political prisoner was, he asserted, a misnomer, and he was therefore not a little surprised at the claim laid to that term by law-breakers.

The speaker disagreed with the statement that persons were sent to prison merely for holding certain political views. A person could be sentenced to imprisonment only if he actually broke the law. Any one who disobeyed established authority could be penalised according to the laws of the country, and so far as cases of imprisonment for a period of six months or more were concerned, he did not consider it necessary to make hair-splitting differences as regards the degrees of the offences. Under the penal code, there could be only one class of prisoners and no special privileges could be extended to

particular individuals among them. If privileges were to be granted, a person sentenced to imprisonment for breaking the law relating to Temple Entry, for example, might as well style himself as a political prisoner and claim privileges.

Mr. H. K. VEERANNA GOWDA supported the resolution. Referring to the objection taken to the adoption of the term "political prisoners" with reference to certain persons, he said that there was no need to labour the point. According to modern usage, whoever was sentenced to a term of imprisonment for a political offence could be styled as a political prisoner.

Referring next to the subject-matter of the resolution, he explained that in the rules relating to elections, the disqualifications which were properly applicable to criminals guilty of dacoity, murder, etc., were made to apply to ex-convicts guilty of political offences not involving moral turpitude. The framers of the rule did not seem to have appreciated it that while the former broke the law out of sheer selfishness, the latter did so for the political advancement of the country and its people. The speaker emphasized the fact that the laws of the country were not divine dispensations but only man-made laws. Each country had its own scheme of legislation, and there was nothing wrong in demanding that laws should be changed according to the spirit of the times, as the outlook and culture of the people progressed from time to time. Simply because some people held and advocated their own political views, it would not be proper to dub them as political agitators. It had to be borne in mind that in British India, at the present moment, persons who had suffered long terms of imprisonment during the previous regime were actually running the administration in 7 or 8 Provinces. The laws were formerly being amended from the Government's viewpoint. There was now a demand that they should be amended from the standpoint of the people. And in putting forth this demand, if some persons transgressed the limits of the law, according to the authorities, the former would be sentenced to certain terms of imprisonment. And if the term in any case was six months or more, the person was at present disqualified to stand as a candidate for election. What the resolution urged was that persons convicted for political offences should not be treated as being on a par with others and that the disqualification operating against them should be removed. This, he said, was a moderate and reasonable request and he had great pleasure in supporting it.

The FIRST MEMBER (Rajamantrapravina S. P. Rajagopalachari), speaking on behalf of Government, pointed out that the discussion had proceeded on the assumption that the principle involved in the general disqualifications attaching to candidates for election was one of moral turpitude. With a view to correct that impression, he mentioned severally the disqualifications prescribed under Rule 8 of the Legislative Council Rules. Taking the case of a government servant, referred to in clause (vi) of that rule, he said that the government servant might have been dismissed from service for neglect of duty and not necessarily for any moral turpitude on his part. Again, the offence in the case of an undischarged insolvent, referred to in clause (iv), might be failure to pay his debts, due to sheer inability, and not moral turpitude. It was thus clear that all the disqualifications laid down in the rule did not pertain to moral turpitude.

The point raised in the resolution related to the question of amending clause (v) which read as follows:—

> "who has been sentenced by a criminal court to imprisonment for six months or more or convicted of an offence punishable with imprisonment for seven years or more."

He pointed out that everywhere in the world there was some sort of disability imposed on ex-convicts belonging to the above category. In Great Britain also, persons guilty of offences like felony, treason, etc., were disqualified for membership in either House of Parliament. That was a general rule common to most constitutions. He hoped that the mover and his supporters would appreciate the general

principle involved in the provision under reference.

Continuing, **Mr. RAJAGOPALACHARI** observed that the mover of the resolution did not want to press the first part of the resolution but only the latter portion relating to the question of exempting all political prisoners from the operation of the said rule. While on that point, the speaker referred to the dispute about the validity of the claim to characterise a particular class of offenders as 'political prisoners' and said that in common parlance any one who was convicted of a political offence for a term of imprisonment came to be called a 'political prisoner.' The expression 'political prisoners' came to be used first to distinguish those imprisoned under Regulation III of 1803 from other classes of prisoners. Subsequently, the Burma prisoners from the conquered territory also were characterised by the same appellation. These prisoners were not actually in prison but their movements were restricted. They were paid allowances, provided with quarters, etc., and treated respectably. But latterly it had become difficult to define the term 'political prisoners.' To define them as those sentenced to imprisonment for political offences would be begging the question. Certain political prisoners might be guilty of mutiny, sedition, waging war against the King, etc., all of which had yet to be included in the Indian Penal Code. It could not be argued that those offences were committed out of purely political motives, that no moral turpitude was involved, and therefore that the prisoners should be regarded as being on a different footing. If a man made a speech bordering on sedition, and gave free vent to his own views, he would be committing an offence against the law, even though there might be no moral turpitude involved. For this reason, the speaker did not consider it desirable to amend the rule in the manner suggested.

Proceeding, he referred to the meaning of the term 'political offence' and pointed out that in Northern India its scope was being widened, and in spite of the fact that the offence involved violence such as the holding up of trains etc., if the motive was political, it was being brought under the category of political offences. But, whatever the term might be taken to mean, the point at issue was one of exempting certain of the prisoners from the operation of certain rules. As pointed out by Mr. S. Rangaramiah, there was scope under the existing rules themselves for the Government to grant exemptions, at their discretion, in all deserving cases, and not merely to political offenders. Such discretion could be used even in favour of an undischarged insolvent. Again, one of the rules laid down that no person below 21 years of age was qualified to stand as a candidate, but if a certain individual under that age happened to be very precocious, an exception could be made by Government in favour of that individual and special exemption granted.

The speaker then invited attention to the fact that in the case of Mr. K. T. Bhashyam Aiyangar, Government themselves took the necessary action to grant him exemption, when it was learnt that he wished to stand as a candidate for the Representative Assembly. This showed that it was the policy of Government to view things in a generous spirit. Some members had alluded to certain persons who once had been in prison but who had become Ministers under the existing state of affairs. That only showed that other Governments also had created similar facilities for granting the necessary exemptions from the operation of the election rules in favour of the concerned persons.

Mr. S. RANGARAMIAH expressed an apprehension that similar liberality of spirit might not always be in evidence and that it might vary with each individual, and stated that that was the reason why a general exemption in respect of political prisoners was prayed for.

Mr. S. P. RAJAGOPALACHARI remarked that such an apprehension was not warranted by the existing state of affairs in Mysore. And, so long as Government did not refuse exemptions from the operation of the general rules,

they might well be trusted to grant them in all deserving cases. It was far from the intention of Government to keep deserving persons out of the constitutional bodies. It did not matter whether the term 'political prisoners' was clearly defined or not. It was not easy to define the term in unambiguous words. Even the Congress Governments, which had been in office in British India for over one year, did not seem to have made any suggestion in the matter. But what really mattered was the spirit in evidence at the time of considering the question of exemptions, and in Mysore, admittedly, that spirit was one of genuine sympathy. That being so, he felt that the matter could well be left as it was, and the resolution withdrawn.

Mr. K. T. BHASHYAM AIYANGAR said that, relying on the assurance that the Government would continue to interpret and use the power of exemption under this rule liberally and sympathetically in all cases such as were referred to in the foregoing speeches, he would withdraw the resolution.

The resolution was, by leave of the House, withdrawn.

Resolution No. 5.

Rates for Supply of Electricity to Municipalities.

Mr. J. ASWATHANARAYANA RAO and all the other members of Kolar District.

Mr. J. ASWATHANARAYANA RAO moved the following resolution :—

"This Assembly recommends to the Government of His Highness the Maharaja that electric energy be supplied to all the Municipalities in the State at the same rate at which it is supplied to the District Boards in the State."

In doing so, he said that he had been told, after tabling the resolution, that there was no difference in the rates charged for electric energy supplied to the municipalities and the district boards. Still, he said he was in a position to quote concrete instances to show that there was such difference. In Chikballapur town, there were 273 street lights and 24 dome-lights. For electric energy, the Municipality had been paying at Rs. 45 per year for each dome-light and at Rs. 22-8-0 for each street light. But recently, when a lighting installation was given to a newly formed extension in the Kandavara Village in the same taluk, power for 13 street lights was charged for at the rate of Rs. 18-4-0 each per year. The District Board had been asked to frame a resolution agreeing to pay at the above rate. Thereupon the Chikballapur Municipality made a representation to the Chief Secretary, to the effect that the same rates be charged in the case of lights in Chikballapur also, but a reply was received that Government had already passed orders about Chikballapur Municipality and that the question could not be reopened. The Chief Engineer, who had been approached in the matter, however, explained that Rs. 22-8-0 were charged because the street lights in Chikballapur were of 60 candle-power while the lights supplied to the District Boards were all of 20 candle-power. Thereupon, the Municipality applied for the supply of lights of lower candle-power, *viz.*, 40. But the authorities concerned refused to supply them on the ground, that any reduction of power in the case of dome-lights would be of no use whatever. While not disputing the soundness of that opinion, the speaker represented that the Municipality was finding it very difficult to make both ends meet after paying the heavy amount of Rs. 10,000 on account of electric charges. The total income of the Municipality was only Rs. 32,000 and spending one-third of it on a single item, *viz.*, lighting, was nothing short of extravagance. The Municipality had already contracted a debt of Rs. 70,000. As the entire income from house-tax did not exceed Rs. 4,500, the balance of Rs. 5,500 had to be found from other sources, which was not possible. In these circumstances, he urged that the existing rates be reduced to the level obtaining in the case of district boards, if necessary by lowering the candle-power of the lights.

The FIRST MEMBER (Rajamantrapravina S. P. Rajagopalachari) explained that the electric rates charged to the district board related to some special

road lights and not street lights. It was not usual to provide lights for P.W.D. roads except in special cases. As the road belonged to the P.W.D., a concessional rate, which was being allowed in the case of all departments, was charged in that case also. The object of extending the concession to the P.W.D. roads was to lighten the burden on the Road Fund from which this charge was being met. Since the resolution would amount to extending the concessional rates to municipalities also, he said that the matter would have to be examined in detail. He added, at the same time, that it was purely a departmental matter and Government had not made any definite rule in regard to it.

Mr. J. ASWATHANARAYANA RAO stated that the municipality had already passed a resolution agreeing to the candle-power being reduced, with a view to keeping down the recurring charges.

Mr. S. P. RAJAGOPALACHARI replied that the request would be favourably considered, if the same was submitted to Government through the Deputy Commissioner.

In view of this reply of Government the resolution, was withdrawn by leave of the House.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Levy of an Acreage Cess in lieu of Tank Maintenance Work by Raiyats.

The FIRST MEMBER (Rajamantrapravina S. P. Rajagopalachari) mentioned that Government desired to take the opinion of the Assembly in regard to a certain important matter, *viz.*, maintenance of major and minor tanks.

In regard to this question, he explained, the rules required that all the concerned raiyats should do maintenance work, *viz.*, earth-work, silt-clearing, etc. But several members had brought to notice that this work was being neglected by the raiyats. In the case of some special tanks like those of Kadaba and Hoskote, in lieu of labour, a maintenance cess of eight annas to one rupee was being levied from each of the concerned raiyats. The Public Works Department utilised that income for doing the maintenance work in those places. Similarly, the Government had a proposal to levy a cess for the maintenance of all major tanks and important minor tanks, credit the collections to a separate fund, and utilise it for looking after the tanks. This would mean that instead of manual labour a money contribution in the form of a cess should be paid by the raiyats. The speaker stated that Government would be glad to know the opinion of the Assembly on this proposal.

Mr. T. MADIAH GOWDA enquired whether some of the raiyats under a tank would be free to contribute their share of the manual labour, even when the others preferred to pay the proposed cess in lieu of such labour.

Mr. S. P. RAJAGOPALACHARI replied in the affirmative and said that such people would be exempted from paying the cess.

Mr. K. T. BHASHYAM AIYANGAR was opposed to the levy of a separate compulsory cess for maintenance of tanks, on the ground that the raiyat was already over-burdened with taxation. He was of opinion that the subordinate officers of the Revenue Department were largely responsible for neglect on the part of the raiyats in the matter of tank maintenance. Very much depended upon the efficiency of the officers and the attitude they adopted towards the raiyats.

Mr. S. P. RAJAGOPALACHARI asked if it was not due also to the raiyats' indifference.

Mr. K. T. BHASHYAM AIYANGAR replied that even if it were so, the remedy did not lie in penalising them by the levy of a compulsory tax, and that the better thing for the officers to do would be to coax the raiyats and get the work done. While on this topic, he cited the case of two hamlets very close to Bangalore City, named Hosakerehalli and Kadariguppe, which were in a very insanitary condition, with neither roads nor drains nor anything else which would do credit to a well cared for village. The pity was that no officer had even cared to notice them. If only the Amildar or Sanitary Inspector had